The College managements are required to function within the provisions of the Dentists Act and the regulations notified thereunder. The Ministry does not exercise any administrative control over the private dental colleges beyond the provisions.

National River Conservation Plan (NRCP)

*60. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress achieved till 31st March, 1998 under the Centrally sponsored National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) in pollution abatement work in 46 towns located along 18 inter-State rivers in 10 States;

(b) the amount of Centre's share for this scheme released till 31st March, 1998;

(c) whether the work on the scheme is progressing according to schedule finalised at the time of launching of the scheme; and

(d) if not, the reasons for slow progress and steps being taken to accelerate the work?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) A total of 152 schemes have been sanctioned as on 31st March, 1998 under the Centrally sponsored national River Conservation Plan for pollution abatement in 46 towns located along 18 inter-State rivers in 10 States. 17 schemes have been completed and the remaining are at various stages of implementation.

(b) An amount of Rs. 40.82 crore has been released as on 31st March, 1998 as the share of the Central Government to the States covered under the National River Conservation Plan.

(c) and (d) There have been some delays in the initial period in the preparation of the detailed project reports of various pollution abatement schemes due to lack of adequate expertise and financial resources available with the States involved in the Plan. However, the Plan is scheduled to be completed by March, 2005.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Implementation of Jute Reservation Order

269. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the fertilizer plants are not strictly implementing the Jute Reservation Order making it compulsory on their part to use laminated jute bags for packaging of 50 per cent urea fertilizer; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard and what steps are proposed to be taken to make the fertilizer plants strictly implement the said order?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) and (b) The compliance of the statutory order under the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act 1987 in the Urea industry has shown a gradual improvement as a result of sustained efforts by the Government. The Jute Commissioner who is the implementing authority monitors the compliance of the statutory order issued by the Government in this regard.

Setting up of Fertilizer Project with Oman Firm

270. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government have been made to play second fiddle to Sultanate of Oman in the US $ 1106 million fertilizer project, confidential documents and cleared controversial deal before Gujral Government's fall as appeared in the Pioneer dated March 29, 1998?

(b) If so, what are the facts in this regard and reasons therefore; and

(c) The present status of this deal and agreement made between G.O.I. and Oman firm?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) to (c) The joint venture fertilizer project in Oman has been conceived on the basis of mutual

advantage. The relevant facts in regard to the investment approval accorded for the Project are as under:

An MOU was signed in July, 1994 between Government of India, M/s Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd. (RCF) and Krishak Bharati Cooperative Ltd. (KRIBHCO) on the Indian side and Sultanate of Oman and Oman Oil Company on the Omani side to set up an Ammonia Urea Complex in Oman as a Joint Venture between Oman Oil Company and RCF/KRIBHCO.

Prior to the registration of a joint venture company (JVC) in February 1998, all the decisions relating to the Joint Venture project were taken by a Joint Management Committee (JMC), which had three members each from the Indian and the Omani sides.

Since then, all the decisions relating to the Joint Venture are being taken by the board of the JVC, which also has three members each from the Indian and the Omani sides.

Approval for investment of US$ 69 million each by RCF and KRIBHCO in the equity of the JVC was accorded by the Government in December 1997 after considering all the aspects relevant to the decision taken by the project sponsors in regard to the arrangements for the execution of the project.

The Joint Venture Company has taken effective steps towards mobilisation of international finance for the implementation of the project.

Apart the MOU referred to above, no agreement has been signed between Government of India and Oman Oil Company.

Subsidy Payments to Urea Manufacturers

271. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have modified the norms, declared in October, 1997 and supposed to be continued upto March, 1998, for subsidy payments to urea manufacturers;

(b) if so, the reasons for the sudden modifications;

(c) whether the modified norms are made applicable to domestic manufacturers including large scale manufacturers; and

(d) the results of the modifications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) to (d) On consideration of the representations of the fertiliser industry regarding the impact on the cost of production of the increase in the price of hydrocarbons and the wide variations in the turn around programmes of urea untis, the following modifications were made in the restriction on the off-take of urea introudced in October, 1997.

(i) The off-take restriction was made applicable to units having a retention price of Rs. 7300 per tonne or above instead of Rs. 7000 per tonne as initially decided.

(ii) The methodology for computation of the proportionate annual installed capacity was revised to take into account the actual number of stream days of operation and the effective daily rated capacity.

The modified as well as the original criterion was applicable to all urea units whose retention price was above the relevant cut off point.

आई॰ डी॰ पी॰ एल॰ को स्वामित्व अधिकार प्रदान करना

272. **श्री मनोहर कांत ध्यानी:** क्या रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या उत्तर प्रदेश में ऋषिकेश में स्थित आई॰डी॰पी॰एल॰ के कारखाने का निर्माण सत्तर के दशक में वृक्षविहीन भूमि में किया गया था;

(ख) क्या कालोनी सहित कारखाने संबंधी ये सभी व्यवस्थाएं नाममात्र के पट्टे पर ली गई वन भूमि पर की गई हैं;

(ग) क्या सरकार इस भूमि को आई.डी.पी.एल. के नाम अंतरित कर उसे श्रेणी "क" के स्वामित्व अधिकार प्रदान करने का विचार रखती है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो तब तक, यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं;

रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डा॰ए॰के॰ पटेल): (क) और (ख) जी, हां।